

Message Text

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INFO ALL OECD CAPITALS

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DEPT PASS LABOR FOR A/S BURKHARDT, BLACKMAN AND
AVERY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, OECD
SUBJECT: 12TH SESSION MSAC WORKING PARTY ON INDUSTRIAL
RELATIONS, MAY 22-23

1. SUMMARY -
WP ON INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS, CHAIRED BY DOL ASSISTANT
SECRETARY BURKHARDT, MET MAY 22-23 AND FOCUSED ON
WASHINGTON CONFERENCE ON COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AND
GOVERNMENT POLICIES. REACTIONS TO PROPOSED CONFERENCE
WAS SPOTTY. SEVERAL DELS INDICATED THEY WOULD SEND
OBSERVERS FROM THEIR WASHINGTON EMBASSIES. ONLY
CANADA HAS FIRMED UP ITS DELEGATION; OTHER COUNTRIES
ARE IN THE PROCESS OF DELEGATION FORMATION. IN OTHER
AREAS WP CONSIDERED SEVERAL REPORTS, GAVE TENTATIVE
APPROVAL TO SECRETARIAT SUGGESTIONS FOR 1979 WORK
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PROGRAM AND REELECTED VICE PRESIDENTS. END SUMMARY-

2. WASHINGTON CONFERENCE ON COLLECTIVE BARGAINING -
INITIAL DELEGATION REACTION WAS SPOTTY. BELGIUM,
SWITZERLAND, TURKEY AND AUSTRIA SAID THEY WILL
ATTEND AS OBSERVERS DRAWN FROM THEIR WASHINGTON EM-
BASSIES. CANADA WAS ONLY DELEGATION FORMALLY FIRMED

UP WITH 30 MEMBERS INCLUDING THREE DELEGATES FROM LABOR DEPARTMENT, PROVINCIAL DEPARTMENTS, TRADE UNIONISTS, EMPLOYERS AND ACADEMICS. UK INDICATED ONE TREASURY AND ONE DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT REP WILL ATTEND. IRELAND WILL SEND HIGH LEVEL, WELL-BALANCED DELEGATION OF FIVE. DENMARK, NORWAY, SWEDEN, SPAIN, NETHERLANDS, FINLAND AND FRG INDICATED FORMATION OF THEIR DELEGATIONS IS UNDER WAY. WP MAY TRY TO MEET FOR FORMAL WRAP-UP IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING WASHINGTON CONFERENCE JULY 14.

3. WP DISCUSSED WITH AUTHORS THREE MAJOR PAPERS FOR WASHINGTON CONFERENCE. THESE WERE: "INTERACTION BETWEEN COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AND GOVERNMENT POLICIES" (PROFESSOR BLYTH, NEW ZEALAND), "COMPARATIVE SURVEY OF WAGE POLICIES IN FINLAND, NORWAY AND IRELAND" (JOHN ADDISON, UK), AND "SURVEYS OF WAGE POLICIES IN AUSTRALIA, CANADA, AND US" (PROFESSOR ALTON CRAIG, CANADA). PAPERS WILL BE SUBMITTED FOR FURTHER COMMENTS BY DELEGATIONS. DR. ANDERSON (SECRETARIAT) PRESENTED ECONOMIC POLICY PAPER WHICH WAS SUBJECT TO LIMITED COMMENT. CHAIRMAN CONSIDERED IT (ON QUICK READING) A USEFUL CONTRIBUTION. SOME DELEGATES, NOTABLY IRISH, REQUESTED THAT PAPER BE RECAST SO AS TO BE UNDERSTOOD BY NON-ECONOMISTS.

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4. 1979 PROGRAM OF WORK -
WP GAVE GENERAL APPROVAL TO SECRETARIAT PROPOSALS FOR FUTURE WORK CONTAINED IN CHAPTER IV OF MAS(78)11, INCLUDING EXAMINATION OF COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AND PUBLIC POLICIES IN 1980S. LATTER PROJECT WILL ANALYZE RECENT AND POTENTIAL ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL TRENDS AS THEY IMPACT ON INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS' SYSTEMS. WP NOTED AND COMMENTED ON PROPOSED SECRETARIAT PROJECT TO EXAMINE STRUCTURE AND OPERATION OF COLLECTIVE BARGAINING. THIS STUDY WOULD TAKE SIX SELECTED COUNTRIES AND EXAMINE DETAILED PRACTICES RATHER THAN POLICIES.

5. ELECTIONS -
DELEGATES FROM SWEDEN AND ITALY WERE REELECTED VICE CHAIRMEN.
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